

Connecticut Judicial Branch's Online Ticket Review Program Receives National Award

The Connecticut Judicial Branch on Tuesday (Aug. 27), received the 2019 Peter K. O'Rourke Special Achievement Award from the Governors Highway Safety Association for its Online Ticket Review Program, which provides members of the public with the opportunity to resolve their infractions online, without having to come to court. Connecticut was one of four states to receive the award for their "outstanding public safety accomplishments."

"To say we are thrilled with this prestigious honor would be an understatement," Chief Court Administrator Patrick L. Carroll III said. "In particular, it is a testament to the dedicated employees who developed and implemented the program, which greatly enhances access to justice for the members of the public we serve. Obviously, the main benefit is that people don't need to take off a day from work or find a babysitter to resolve the matter. At the same time, the court system has the opportunity to use its resources more effectively."

Only individuals charged with infractions and payable violations are eligible. The Judicial Branch piloted the initiative in the Stamford-Norwalk Judicial District in February 2018 and completed its statewide rollout in December 2018. As of Aug. 26, a total of 20,483 cases had been processed through the program.

Recipients of criminal or motor vehicle infractions may either pay the fine or plead not guilty. Those who plead not guilty may take advantage of the program and may then provide a narrative and upload documents to be reviewed by a prosecutor. If a prosecutor makes an offer and a defendant accepts it, the fine may be paid online. Prosecutors also have the option of entering a nolle or transferring the case to court. Statistics as of Aug. 28 show that prosecutors have made a proposal to defendants in 50 percent of the cases, with 80 percent of those proposals accepted. In 20 percent of the cases, the prosecutor has entered a nolle, and 31 percent of the cases have been transferred to court.

The Judicial Branch received grant funding for the program through the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Highway Safety Office, which facilitates funding for traffic records improvement projects from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The nonprofit Governors Highway Safety Association represents the highway safety offices of states, territories, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. For more information about the award and association, please see the association's press advisory.

Advisory dated Aug. 29, 2019